

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are in this application with claims 1, 4, 16, 17 and 20 having been amended, claims 3 and 19 cancelled, and claims 21-23 added by these amendments. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 3-4, 10, 14, 15, 17 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,101,393 ("the '393 patent"). Claims 2, 5, 8, 9, 11-12, and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '393 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,108,559 ("the '559 patent"). Finally, claims 6-7, 9, 12-13, and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '393 patent in view of U.S. Application Publication No. US 2003/0012348. For at least the reasons stated below, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 now incorporates the features of previous claim 3 in order to distinguish over the references cited.

Amended claim 1 distinguishes over the '393 patent. The '393 patent is concerned with screening of received messages using lists of source addresses that are either to be accepted or to be rejected. The screening mechanism is implemented by a specially configured HLR. Importantly, however, it is respectfully submitted that there is no interception of a routing query from the SMS Gateway Mobile Switching Centre to the HLR and interception of a routing query to a HLR is required by amended claim 1. It follows that there is no disclosure of a signal processing means required by claim 1 which responds to the query on behalf of the HLR and

provides a modified address to cause a text message to be sent to message processing means for implementation of a selected delivery mode/modes. Furthermore there is no hint, suggestion or motivation in the '393 patent to provide such features.

It is respectfully submitted that the '559 patent fails to address these deficiencies.

Specifically, in the '559 patent recipient control is provided by routing the message through the recipient's SMS Service Centre as well as the sender's service centre. This results in doubling the load of the HLR in respect of SMS routing queries, breaking of delivery reports (which will now be generated early and possibly erroneously on acceptance by the second service centre rather than delivery to the recipient) and causing additional delay. In contradistinction, with the method of claim 1, a routing query from another network, made in response to a request from a user associated with said another network, is intercepted by a signal processing means in the home network which responds to the routing query on behalf of the HLR of the home network to provide a modified address which causes the text message from the other network to be directed to the message processing means for implementation of said delivery mode. The '559 patent does not disclose any such interception of routing queries to the HLR, but rather requires that the HLR deals with a query to determine the address of the recipient's service centre (steps 2 and 3 in Figure 3) as well as handling a query to determine the address of the visited Mobile Switching Centre associated with the recipient's mobile station (steps 5 and 6 of Figure 3). With the method of claim 1, however, the message processing means implements whatever delivery service and features are required by the recipient, and furthermore can acknowledge the message only once delivery is complete hence preserving correct delivery report behavior. Thus the above-mentioned disadvantages of the '559 patent are avoided. There is no hint, suggestion or

motivation of the '559 patent to provide a signal processing means as defined in claim 1 to intercept a routing query to the HLR.

Finally, US 2003/0012348 discloses a unified mail system in which the users are able to pre-configure delivery options via the web or IVR. Importantly, however, there is no mention of SMS. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that this reference does not remedy aforementioned deficiencies with the '393 and '559 patents.

Claim 17 has been amended to include the limitations of previous claim 19. Independent claim 17 is drawn to a telecommunications network. An independent claim, claim 21, to a telecommunications service apparatus has been included, the text of which is based on previous claim 20 in combination with lines 4 to 13 of page 12 of the application. Independent claims 17 and 21 are intended to provide counterparts to independent claim 1 and so are novel and inventive for the same reasons as provided for claim 1.

CONCLUSION

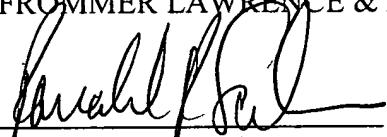
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By:


Ronald R. Santucci
Reg. No. 28,988
(212) 588-0800